

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-12 and 14-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14 and 22 have been amended and claim 13 has been canceled. Claim 1 is independent. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Amendment

The subject matter of claim 13 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claim 14 has been amended for form. Claim 22 has been amended for clarification. Thus, no new matter is added. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can also be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 1a-8c.

II. Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Olsen at the personal interview held February 1, 2010 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed during the interview, claim 22 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claim is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9-13 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,811,954 to Lindmayer; rejects claims 1-6, 9-12 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,780,722 to Swet or U.S. Patent No. 5,877,874 to Rosenberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,892,011 to Walker et al. ("Walker") and rejects claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lindmayer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,765 to Wariishi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the substantially non-transparent areas have openings filled by the transparent areas," "the transparent areas and the substantially non-transparent areas are located in the same plane" and "at least a part of the substantially non-transparent areas is configured for functioning as an electrode in the solar cell." The applied references fail to teach or render obvious the recited features of independent claim 1.

As discussed during the interview and as suggested in the Office Action, Lindmayer fails to teach or render obvious that the substantially non-transparent areas have openings filled by the transparent areas and the transparent areas and the substantially non-transparent areas are located in the same plane. Wariishi fails to cure the deficiencies of Lindmayer.

Regarding the rejection based on Swet or Rosenberg in view of Walker, as discussed and acknowledged during the personal interview, the rejection of Swet or Rosenberg in view of Walker is rendered moot due to incorporation of the subject matter of dependent claim 13 into independent claim 1. Wariishi fails to cure the deficiencies of Swet or Rosenberg in view of Walker.

The dependent claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 9-12 and 14-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 3, 2010

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